

1926
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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

WRENTHAM STATE SCHOOL

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1926

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL DISEASES



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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

TRUSTEES OF THE WRENTHAM STATE SCHOOL

ALBERT L. HARWOOD, *Chairman*, Newton
HERBERT PARSONS, *Secretary*, Brookline
DR. GEORGE W. GAY, Newton

THOMAS H. RATIGAN, Boston
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RAYMOND A. KINMONTH, M.D., *Senior Assistant Physician*
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DR. GEORGE T. VOGEL, *Laryngologist*
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DR. HALSEY B. LODER, *Surgeon*

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

To the Governor, the Legislature and the Department of Mental Diseases:

The Trustees of the Wrentham State School have the honor to submit their twentieth annual report.

Any report of the trustees of a state institution might justifiably, in this day, be simply a formal submittal of the report of the superintendent, with the divisional reports it carries. These are the vital and informative papers. Trustees remain, however, a rather nebulous link between the public and the institution. They may be supposed to rationalize upon the meaning of the institutions in relation to community needs. Their views attempt to be the view of the public looking in and not of organization looking out.

One interest as to the schools for the feeble-minded, one which engages the superintendent's attention and deserves emphasis, is the increase in commitments in the pre-school age and in earlier school years. Here is a visible effect of the growing attention to mental defect at the time in life when a distinct social interest demands it. It is a step forward from the custom of awaiting some distinctly anti-social act or long endurance of a drag on the public schools before any move is made towards commitment to such a school. It is a fortunate development of the policy of prevention,—fortunate for the child, who escapes the misery of a delinquent act or the distress of contrast to normal children in his school contact; and fortunate for the public in its relief from a costly problem and in the probability that the child can be specially trained to some usefulness and self-care.

Obviously related to such better specialized use of the schools like Wrentham is the need that they should be relieved from the presence of inmates whose behavior is persistently disturbing and perhaps criminal. Such presence not only absorbs the attention of the school workers to an undue extent but it goes to make the school a less favorable place for the training of the tractable child. Provision has been made for the disturbing sort of young man and, during the past year, for that sort of young woman. There is, however, a limitation in the range of ages that is without warrant except as a limitation in the number of inmates of the new departments for defective delinquents.

Limitation in the number committed to the department of defective delinquents, if such restriction is necessary, should be sought on a basis of selection other than by an arbitrary age-range. The Superintendent's testimony to the bad effect upon the school of the presence of the defective delinquent boys and girls under seventeen and the absurdity and harm of retention there of the adult criminal is conclusive as to the lack of warrant of the arbitrary age limitations. The more cheerful plea for a non-age provision is that what has been demonstrated within such bonds constitutes a clear case for the removal of a distinction that has slight, if any, relation either to the public or the individual need. The law does not contemplate it and the department rule is mistaken.

For review of the year's progress at Wrentham, in both educational and physical features, attention is directed to the report of Dr. Wallace and his assistants. There will be found the evidence of the interest in the unfortunate which is only perfected when it is an interest in every and the last child in the school. There, too, is the record of concern as to the ones placed in homes, justified in the high average of success in their response to the effort to make avail of training in the school in adjustment to the freer life in the community. It is a record which justifies the Commonwealth's enterprise in providing such specialized effort for its mentally disadvantaged. The trustees may at least perform one duty for the public in expressing its wide obligation to these devoted workers.

Looking to the future, the now developing ten-year program of state outlay in the Department of Mental Diseases clearly contemplates an increase in the capacity of the Wrentham School. The question as to whether such a school should be limited to no more than the present size or expanded to one of say 2,000 inmates seems to have passed out of discussion. The foundation, in point of area and in the already provided central features of construction, warrant an increase in the number of housing units with saving as compared with the cost of a new separate school. Such expansion gives an opportunity for a specialized expansion consistent with advanced ideas of the classification within the institution.

Wide approval has been given to the "Plan and Construction for an Institution for Feeble-Minded" presented by our superintendent at the session in 1924 of the American Association for the Study of the Feeble-Minded. If it were within bounds, the trustees would submit that document as a part of this report as directly applicable to the Wrentham situation. It pictures precisely what this school should be with its larger population. Its merit is that it adds features which not only enlarge capacity but serve distinct purposes of care of certain groups now mingled with the general population or separately treated at a sad disadvantage.

The two features of this plan which command immediate attention are the infirmary and the nursery. These are specializations which argue their own need. The low grade children are an appealing group and that they should be segregated is obviously desirable. Apart from them, the low grade adults as distinctly need to be treated as a unit. Even more appealing is the group of little children not to be classed as low grade. The most casual visitor to the school is captivated by the appeal these little ones make to sympathy and interest. Their presence in the school spells just one word in the institutional list, viz., nursery. It is just that

highly human feature that Wrentham now lacks. It has the group and it undertakes to serve its tender interest as best it can without separation. The proper nursery building is a smaller unit than the usual dormitory. The minimum proposed for Wrentham is a group of four nursery buildings.

These are two features that do not depend for their appeal upon ten-year programs. In point of need they are not subject to postponement. It is not in long view but in clearly present vision that they make claim upon the Commonwealth. We cannot too strongly urge such provision. While it fits into any possible plan of expansion, it would stand alone on the basis of present prudence and humanity.

Early in the year the Commonwealth lost, through the untimely death of Ellerton James, a citizen with an ardent and sustained public interest. It was only as the Wrentham State School was the particular gainer by the devotion of his time and interest to the duties of a trustee, beginning when the school was created in 1906, meeting the demands of its period of construction, and going on unabated in the later years of a relaxed insistence upon such activity, that we are in position to record here some recognition of his civic value and example, along with the sense of a more personal loss on the part of his associates.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT L. HARWOOD, <i>Chairman</i>	THOMAS H. RATIGAN
HERBERT PARSONS, <i>Secretary</i>	MARY S. SCOTT
GEORGE W. GAY, M.D.	ANNIE C. ELLISON

Trustees of the Wrentham State School.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

To the Trustees of the Wrentham State School:

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending November 30, 1926. The movement of the population has been as follows:

1. On Books on Institution at begining of Institution Year:	Male	Female	Total
In Institution.....	527	817	1344
Away from Institution.....	72	119	191
Total.....	599	936	1535
2. Admissions during year:			
First Admissions.....	56	61	117
Readmissions.....	3	5	8
Transfers from other feeble-minded Inst.....	3	0	3
Total received during year.....	62	66	128
3. Total on Books During Year.....	661	1002	1663
4. Discharges during Year (Not including transfers and deaths).....	48	70	118
5. Transfers to other Institutions for Feeble-minded within State.....	1	1	2
6. Died during Year.....	4	12	16
7. Total Discharged, Transferred, and Died during Year	53	83	136
8. Remaining on Books of Institution at End of Institution Year:	Male	Female	Total
In Institution.....	549	818	1367
Away from Institution.....	59	101	160
Total.....	608	919	1527

Of the 128 admissions during the year, the following table gives the ages in five-year periods:

Admissions During the Year Dec. 1, 1925 to Nov. 30, 1926

Age	Males	Females	Totals
Under 5 years.....	6	7	13
5 to 9 years.....	21	17	38
10 to 14 years.....	20	16	36
15 to 19 years.....	12	16	28
20 to 24 years.....	2	3	5
25 to 29 years.....	0	2	2
30 to 34 years.....	0	2	2
35 to 39 years.....	1	3	4
Total.....	62	66	128

It is with satisfaction that I report that the health of the pupils has been exceptionally good and at no time during the year has the routine of the school been disturbed by contagious or infectious diseases. There have been, however, a few sporadic cases of scarlet fever, mumps and diphtheria, but none of these diseases have been present in epidemic form. Preventive medicine is actively applied and the population is rendered immune from contagious disease as far as possible, by the use of the various vaccines and anti toxins. Oral hygiene and care of the teeth is looked after by the resident dentist. All children receive a thorough examination of nose, throat and ears by a specialist and tonsils and adenoids removed where necessary. The children all have their eyes examined by an oculist and any existing eye defects are corrected. The food supply, the children's living conditions and all their activities are under careful medical supervision.

The educational work has been carried forward in a pleasing manner. In every department in the schools, from the Sequin rooms up through the various grades and through the industrial rooms the teachers have shown great interest and there has been corresponding progress by the pupils. This department, with its twenty-eight teachers furnishes the scholastic and industrial instruction to the pupils and also does much in the way of promoting social life throughout the whole institution. Conducting of the social activities of an institutional school is a most important part of the work. Good physical environment the pupils must have and good educational advantages are essential, but both are inadequate unless supplemented by a social program through which the children can express themselves, namely, by organized competitive games, weekly building parties, monthly birthday parties, music, operettas and plays, moving pictures, dances, skating, coasting, hikes, picnics, story telling, foot ball and base ball games and free use of the library.

During the year the community has made free use of the clinic provided by the school. Many problem children have been examined, consultation opportunities given to parents, guardians, teachers and physicians and advice given as to the treatment and care of difficult children in the community.

In carrying on the school clinics the entire time of one physician and one psychologist is required four days a week during the school year.

The opening of the department at Bridgewater for defective delinquent women and the removal thereto of fifteen defective delinquent girls from this institution is noteworthy. It is unbelievable, to those who know nothing of the influence of defective delinquents in a school for the feeble-minded, what an improvement has taken place in the morale of our girls' departments by the removal of these few defective delinquents out of the population of 825 girls. The removal of a group of defective delinquent boys a few years ago and this year the removal of this group of defective delinquent girls, has made it possible to carry on our work for the children much more effectively with a resultant advantage of greater

happiness and contentment to both children and employees in the institution. Unfortunately for the schools for the feeble-minded no provision has been made as yet for the care of the adolescent and older defective delinquents. Those transferred from the schools to Bridgewater have been between the ages of seventeen and twenty-five years. We thus find ourselves in possession of a considerable number of the adolescent and older defective delinquents. It would be fortunate indeed if defective delinquency confined itself to a definite cycle in the chronological age of individuals affected, but such is not the case and the schools still have placed on them the burden of caring for these young criminals and old criminals among the ordinary feeble-minded children. This can work out in only one way and it is working out that way,—namely, to the great disadvantage of our children. There are comparatively few of these defective delinquents in our institution and they should certainly be removed if we are to do justice to the great number of the feeble-minded whose care is our real responsibility. What I stated in my annual reports of 1914 and 1921 of the defective delinquent class as a whole is just as applicable to the adolescent and older group as it is to those between seventeen and twenty-five years of age and I, therefore, take the liberty of quoting from these reports:

REPORT OF 1914

"I wish to call to your attention the increasing number of defective delinquents that are being committed to this institution. They are not a class that should be assigned to a school for the feeble-minded. The institution is not designed or constructed to meet the demands of caring for them. They do not classify with the feeble-minded. They interfere very seriously with the ordinary amusements, joys and pleasures of the feeble-minded. They ridicule the best efforts of the employee for the interests of the feeble-minded. In fact, the optimistic and altruistic methods obtaining in the successful care of the feeble-minded are frustrated by this class, at every turn. The tender and considerate quality which is positively essential in the employees caring for the feeble-minded is used by the defective delinquent in gaining his own point, which is always injurious, both to himself and the management of the institution. By his picturesque and notorious escapades in the community, the defective delinquent is more likely to gain the attention of the social worker and be sent to an institution than is the unobtrusive, deserving, feeble-minded person."

REPORT OF 1921

"The presence of a large number of the defective delinquent class in the institution is becoming an increasingly wasteful burden. The institution can do them no good, while they do the ordinary feeble-minded children who are the inmates for whom the school was created incalculable harm by robbing them of a large share of the attention, interest and energy of the staff. The criminal tendencies of this class were well illustrated by the loss of our dairy barn, which was set on fire by delinquent inmates and burned last winter.

It has long been recognized by all forward looking states that in the care of the insane the ordinary insane patients must be protected from the criminal insane. This is accomplished by making special institutional provision for the latter class. Yet in this Commonwealth, which was the leader in making this special provision for the care of the criminal insane, the criminal feeble-minded are still freely committed to our schools for the feeble-minded.

An institution for the feeble-minded, if well managed, is a community comparable to a small town humming with activities. It is well known how one criminal will terrorize a town, disorganize its activities and disturb the law-abiding citizens. The law-abiding citizens feel that they have a right to be protected from the depredations of the criminal. The feeble-minded children entrusted to our care

have as good a right to be protected from the criminal feeble-minded. I believe that our children's inability to protect themselves from the harmful influence of this delinquent class is a challenge to our spirit of fair play and our desire to protect the weak. In justice to the feeble-minded children some action should be taken at the earliest possible time to remove this delinquent class from the schools for the feeble-minded."

The applications for the year far outnumber the admissions. At the present time we have seven hundred applications on the waiting list. It is only those presenting the most urgent need that have been admitted yet we find the institution in an acutely overcrowded condition. The applications have been for the admission of children of all ages and for those of all degrees of mental defect. It is obvious that the greater number of applications are for children of the school age. The last few years, however, there has been an increasingly urgent demand for the admission of children of the pre-school age. The reason for this demand for admission of children of tender years is explained by the better understanding of the problem of mental deficiency by the community, the more ready recognition by parents, physicians, nurses and social workers of children exhibiting evidence of backward symptoms. There is much to be said in favor of admitting children of the pre-school age to our institutional schools. In the ordinary family of young children a feeble-minded child is sure to absorb so much of the mother's time and make such a demand on her emotional nature, that she is incapable of giving the proper care and consideration to the normal children of the family. Also, the presence of a feeble-minded child is likely to produce in these children mental complexes and conflicts which, in later years, is very likely to cause reactions unfavorable to society. There are also many cases of these young, mentally defective children whose mothers are widowed and should be relieved of their care so that they can direct their energy towards keeping their normal children together and providing a home that is not distracted by the presence of a feeble-minded child. Also the child himself will usually do much better in a school where he is under the care of specialists during the pre-school age. In the home the feeble-minded child is a foreign element. The ideals of the home are framed around normal children, and, therefore, for the best interests of the child, the home and the community many of these feeble-minded children of pre-school age should be receiving institutional care.

The practice of recent years, of finding suitable homes and positions for trained and deserving boys and girls in the institution has been carried forward. The cases for parole have been selected carefully by the staff and the selection of positions and homes has been made with great care by the social service workers. While we have had some failures in our efforts at adjusting these girls and boys in the community, yet the successful adjustments for a period of years so outnumbers the failures that the work as a whole is most gratifying. The Social Service Department in its successful carrying on of this difficult work is worthy of commendation.

The farm department is continually increasing in importance as an educational medium as well as from a utility standpoint. It has furnished a bountiful supply of fresh vegetables, fruit, milk and pork, for the institution tables. In addition to the vegetables harvested from the farm during the summer, a supply of winter vegetables, sufficient to last the entire season, has been stored.

The following is a list of the amounts of some of the most important products received from the farm during the year:

Asparagus, 2, 353½ lbs.	Beans, string, 18,666½lbs.	Beans, dry, 305 lbs.
Beans, shell, 4153 lbs.	Beets, 42,005 lbs.	Beet Greens, 3,335 lbs.
Cabbage, 73,422 lbs.	Carrots, 72,758 lbs.	Cauliflower, 2,243½ lbs.
Celery, 11,958 lbs.	Chard, Swiss, 6976, lbs.	Corn, green swt. 50,213 lbs.
Cucumbers, 8,291 lbs.	Endives, 4,528 lbs.	Lettuce, 8,443 lbs.
Onions, 14,763 lbs.	Parsnips, 9,474 lbs.	Pumpkins, 16,018 lbs.
Peas, green, 2,792 lbs.	Peppers, green, 2,105 lbs.	Spinach, 7,599 lbs.
Radishes, 2,772¼ lbs.	Rhubarb, 3,955 lbs.	Tomatoes, 92,253 lbs.
Squash, summer, 6,166 lbs	Squash, winter, 29,942 lbs.	Apples, seconds, 2,528 lbs.
Turnips, 56,735 lbs.	Apples, firsts, 12,249½ lbs.	Grapes, 1,981 lbs.
Apples, crab, 1,118 lbs.	Currants, 270 lbs.	Gooseberries, 850½ lbs.
Pears, 248 lbs.	Blackberries, 337½ lbs.	Milk, 164,348.75 quarts
Strawberries, 603 lbs.	Potatoes, 6,150 bushels	
Pork, 12,148 lbs.		

The following produce from the farm was canned and preserved: 1094 quarts of fruit; 15,797 quarts of vegetables; 74, 50-gal. barrels of pickles, relishes and catsup.

Some of the most important repairs made during the year are: The renewal of the poles for carrying the power wire from the power house to the pumping station, the installation of a new centrifugal pump with a capacity of 200 gallons of water per minute, the complete rewiring of the laundry building, using the conduit system. Toward the project of re-equipping the laundry with modern machinery, one 48" Humatic extractor has been installed. Under the appropriation for fire protection a sprinkler system has been installed in the laundry, basement of the service building, carpenter shop and paint shop.

For the detailed activities of the schools, social service, school clinics and dental departments, I refer you to the reports of the heads of these departments which I submit as a part of this report.

The following changes in the personnel of the Social Service Department have taken place during the year.

Miss Alice Raymond who began her service as head social worker on July 6, 1921 resigned on January 31, 1926, to take up work with Dr. Macfie Campbell in connection with the Psychopathic Hospital and Harvard University. It was with regret that Miss Raymond's resignation was accepted as the success of placing the work in this department on a solid foundation, was due in no small measure to her good judgment, and conscientious, painstaking service. The position thus made vacant was filled by promoting Miss Hawley P. Foster from the position of Social Worker to that of Head Social Worker. Miss Foster has been in the service since April 28, 1922. Miss Doris Gerry has been appointed to fill the vacancy arising by Miss Foster's promotion.

Dr. Neil A. Dayton, who faithfully served in the position of Assistant Superintendent since April 3, 1922 resigned on May 15, 1926 to accept the position of Assistant to the Commissioner of Mental Diseases.

I wish here to state that through an oversight in my last annual report, I failed to make note of the resignation of Miss Sara M. Clayland from the position of Chief Clerk and Treasurer on Sept. 12, 1925. Miss Clayland was the first employee to serve this institution in a clerical capacity. She began her service on Dec. 30, 1907 when the total population of pupils was ten. As the institution developed she was placed in charge of the office and during the later years of her service she served in the capacity of Chief Clerk and Treasurer. It was largely due to her unusual ability and thorough mastery of details that the work of the office during the early years was so thoroughly organized. Her resignation was accepted with regret. The position of Chief Clerk and Treasurer made vacant by her resignation was filled by the appointment of Miss Elizabeth Oldham who had been employed as assistant in the treasurer's office at the Grafton State Hospital for a number of

years.

We are again, for another year, indebted to friends and neighbors of the school for many gifts presented to our children and for many courtesies extended to the management.

The ministers, Protestant, Catholic and Hebrew, have conducted their services in an impressive manner and the lessons they have taught our children have had a positive influence for good as shown in the reactions of the children toward each other and toward the employees.

In closing this report I wish again to call to your attention the high quality of service rendered by the employees of the school. I also wish to acknowledge your ever-helpful advice and interest individually and as a Board.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE L. WALLACE, M.D., *Superintendent.*

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School;

I hereby respectfully submit to you the annual report of the School department for the year ending November 30, 1926.

During the year there have been enrolled 676 in the school classes. A special class in handwork for crippled children has been organized.

In the primary department the introduction of the Bolinius system of reading has been started. By its use the children's interest is secured and held in a pleasing manner.

A number of boys and girls beyond the school age have been admitted to the institution who have had no school advantages and have never learned to read. Many of them have expressed a desire to learn to read; for these a class has been organized. These pupils have shown much interest and are making progress.

The school store provides the necessary practice in buying and selling. Happy is the store-keeper who can successfully make change during the entire lesson.

The physical training department reaches a great many children. The lower grade children are stimulated to action by active games, marching and command work. The more advanced classes are given the usual gymnastic work, dancing, soccer, basket ball and foot ball.

The music department has continued to do excellent work. The musical organization consisting of the choir, glee club, orchestra, band and drum and bugle corp have contributed much towards the happiness of the whole institution population in the many entertainments they have furnished throughout the year; especially worthy of mention is the quality of the music furnished by the choir for the religious services. The new uniform suits furnished the band have been genuinely appreciated.

The new equipment in the Domestic Science room has greatly facilitated the work in this department. Here the girls are trained in the arts of cookery and housekeeping with a view to placement on parole in the community, or in the institution kitchens and dining rooms. In this department are prepared many special articles of food for the hospital.

In the story telling room the teacher succeeds in a pleasing manner in imparting to the children much useful knowledge and at the same time emphasizes the correct use of English and proper enunciation. The weekly entertainments furnished by the school department have been carried on as usual. Special entertainments were given at the Christmas season. On July 4th the circus was given in which over 200 children participated.

The summer play ground work was successfully carried on by the two teachers retained for this purpose. Active games were the order of the day but if the day was hot the children gathered under the trees and quiet games were played or stories told. In the evening many exciting ball games were played.

The printing classes have been kept busy with the institution printing. The school paper has been received kindly. The printers also design and print programs for entertainments and invitations to parties.

Much of the success of the school year is due to the faithful work of our corp of teachers.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARL H. LITTLEFIELD, *Head Teacher.*

REPORT OF THE DENTAL DEPARTMENT

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School:

I hereby submit to you this annual report for the year ending November 30, 1926.

Examinations, 1027; treatment of stomatitis, 60; extractions, 278; extractions, deciduous, 135; pulp treatment, permanent, 140; pulp treatment, deciduous, 0; fillings, permanent, 1434; fillings, deciduous, 107; prophylactic treatments, 826; silver reduction treatments, 92; treatment of erupting teeth, 20; post-extraction treatments, 125; laboratory hours, 43; gold crowns, 7; porcelain crowns, 7; local anaesthesia, 161; vulcanite dentures, 10; repaired dentures, 17; bridges, 3; radiograms, 169; ground teeth, 31; total patients, 2224; new patients, 107; dismissals, 774; gold inlays, 13; total operating hours, 1312; gold inlay re-set, 2; .

As I write this report I find myself thinking of another and briefer one namely, the report which comes to you at various times, informing you that this boy or that girl has been negligent in the use of the tooth brush. I cannot over estimate the power for good this little report possesses as it leaves you and is transmitted through the physician, matron and attendant to the child, emphasizing by this co-operative means the importance that we place upon the maintenance of clean teeth throughout the school, and showing our desire here also to promote the health and happiness of the child, by inhibiting as far as we are able, the incidence of dental caries and other disease sequelae. In stressing this importance it is gratifying to know that our tenets here are in harmony with the conclusions of a celebrated medical authority,—Professor William Osler, who says: "There is not a single thing more important in the whole range of hygiene than the hygiene of the mouth: if I were asked to say whether more physical deterioration were caused by alcohol or defective teeth I should unhesitatingly say defective teeth."

For taking proper care of their teeth during 1925, 1023 children received clean teeth awards; these were pins with a suitable inscription and attached ribbon. Vocal and instrumental music followed by moving pictures made up the program. One of the pictures was a clean teeth film, appealing to the children, showing in an entertaining manner the advantages that are derived from having clean sound teeth. Before the pictures were shown I gave the children a little talk on the proper way to take care of their teeth, and congratulated them on the results they had attained. I then read the names of all those children, who, as a result of previous examination, were found to be worthy of receiving the clean teeth award.

Many of the Mongolian type of children show very little evidence of the care that has been given their teeth. Due, in my opinion, to an apparent tendency to rachitis, some of these patients are early affected with gingivitis and absorption of the alveolar process with a resulting periodontitis of the chronic type; the deciduous teeth are lost earlier than they normally are, with spasmodic and irregular eruption of the permanent set. Caries, while sometimes present, is not marked.

Appointments are made by obtaining a population list of each building in turn and checking off each name as the child is given an appointment and when he is

dismissed. Owing to the fact that many children from other buildings require emergency treatment at times, also due to the necessity of treating many newly admitted children shortly after they arrive, the plan of strictly confining appointments to each building in turn cannot be adhered to.

Frequently throughout the year I visit the different buildings to examine the tooth brushes; to investigate statements concerning "lost" or "broken" brushes; and occasionally in order to talk to the matron and attendants in a group for the purpose of stirring up a little interest concerning the constantly unclean condition of some boy's or girl's teeth. During the present month I shall examine every child in the school; this examination together with my records help me to determine whether or not a child is eligible for the clean teeth award, to be given out later.

Our posters, displays and pictures used for the purpose of arousing more enthusiasm in oral hygiene, have not been as plentiful as in the past because we have practically exhausted the supply that the State Department of Health has loaned us. I feel, however that something new will be forthcoming soon.

Almost always the accomplishment of anything worth while requires courage and determination, and I am inclined to attribute those qualities to the men and women here who, with other work requiring energetic thought and action, have cooperated whole-heartedly in the plan to reach and maintain a higher standard of oral hygiene in the school.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. NASH, D.M.D.

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School:

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending November 30, 1926.

The work of the department has shown a continuance and development of that of the preceding year. In general, it consists of home and social investigations with the resulting placement and supervision of children from the School. The relatives, or friends or legal representatives make many requests for the return of children to their homes. Social investigations are made in these cases with the resulting placement of some children in well protected homes. Often investigations disclose social conditions which render placement inadvisable. Preventive work is thus a large part of that of the department.

Voluntary placement by the School of children in wage or boarding homes is perhaps the most direct and economical method. Fewer cases of trial and error result when the placement is effected at the right time in the child's training when the right social situation is reported by the social worker. The judgment of the staff, teacher, psychologist, matron and social worker is most valuable in arriving at a decision.

During the year 134 home and social investigations have been made in response to requests from relatives, friends and prospective employers. An increase of 50% in the number of investigations of requests for vacations during the months of July and August is noted. This shows a healthy growth of the special work started in 1921 when it was possible for the department to begin supervision of children at home for a few weeks in the summer,—when the varied forms of recreation at beaches and parks offer some acute problems for a mentally defective child. 405 visits direct to children and 552 visits to relatives, employers, agencies and others have been made during the year.

Because of the emphasis which is being placed on community supervision of the mentally defective and because of the crowding of the three state schools by cases deserving institutional care and training, the function of social service has been more clearly defined. Effort has been made during the past year to meet this need and special attention has been paid to placing trained girls from the school in wage homes. 24 such placements have been made.

Economic factors play a part in the parole of such patients. The cost of maintenance per week per child is given as \$6.68 during 1925. A girl remaining in the community for a year thus saves the maintenance cost of \$357.77. In addition she is producing, contributing to the work of the world. Part of her wages may go into her bank account. Some girls have saved from \$75.00 to \$150.00 per year, besides clothing themselves. The amount added to their happiness and self-respect at being self-supporting is immeasurable.

Participation in family and community life is often difficult for the institutionally trained child. A study of the cases of children with long histories of institutional life might answer the question if there is a point beyond which they fail to profit by it. Do they lose hope of having a chance "outside" and does this affect their attitude toward their associates and their work? With the pressure of an increasing number of applications for admission it may be necessary to shorten the period of institutional training and to refer certain cases earlier to the social service for placement.

The interest of the Superintendent and Staff in such special problems which vitally concern the welfare of the children is assured. Their advice and co-operation during the year have been most helpful. The advice and direction of the Director of Social Service of the Department of Mental Diseases has also been a source of genuine help and inspiration.

Acquaintance with the developments in the fields of family, children's and psychiatric social work has been made possible during the year by attendance at the monthly conferences of the State Department and at group conferences of the Division of the Feeble-Minded, the Boston Conference of Home Finders, the Boston Conference of Supervisors, etc.

At the beginning of the year the personnel consisted of a head social worker, one social worker and one full-time student. February 1st, Miss Alice Raymond left the department to accept a position in the research field. July 1st, the student returned to the Smith College School for Social Work. The present personnel consists of a head social worker appointed in February and one full time worker, Miss Doris L. Gerry, who joined the department in September.

Respectfully submitted,

HAWLEY PIERCE FOSTER, *Head Social Worker*

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL EXAMINER

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School:

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending November 30, 1926.

During the year 666 children were examined. A new territory was assigned to the Clinic and a more complete survey made in another city where only a small number had been presented for examination in other years. We find that public interest in our work is by no means waning, but that there is a greater dependence on the aid given by the clinic in diagnosing and classifying children backward, or seemingly so, and those presenting problems academically or in their affective reactions.

We have been particularly impressed by the large percentage of children we have been asked to see whose parents are foreign born. In one city where sixty-four children were examined only six had American born parents. We are not to conclude from this that all children of alien parentage are retarded. The experienced teacher tells us that normal children of such families will progress just as rapidly as those of native American stock, yet it must be conceded, that the desire of many foreign families to foster the manners and customs of their race and

country, to continue their standards of living, is a handicap to some extent, especially in the early grades, when the child must learn to adapt himself to school routine in a new tongue. These children while not definitely feeble-minded are slow to adapt themselves to a new environment and for a year or two are misfits in the regular grades. To these children the special class comes as an ideal atmosphere of help and sympathy. Here not only the academic work can be adapted to the child but his habit reactions can be best directed, his abilities or disabilities determined and character built by closer contact and more personal work than is possible in the larger class room. Later they may be able to again take up class work in grades.

Another type of child, we see each year, is the one whose mentality is retarded to such an extent that he cannot be expected to grasp even primary work. The average child enters school at six years of age but if the mind does not show the same development chronologically and immaturity exists the child is unable to progress in his classes. Such a pupil is restless, disinterested, unable to concentrate, attention being difficult and is a general disturber in the school room. Five hours daily five days a week is beyond his ability and endurance. Even the special class is not suited to his needs. Better that he remain at home for a year or more or until development has progressed to the mental school age. If such does not seem promising then training in one of the State Training Schools offers the most favorable background.

Few acute physical problems are seen. Results of disease in early life often show residuals but in the main pupils in the public schools today are well supervised medically, by school physicians and nurses. Those underweight are given special care and fresh air classes organized, so that backwardness from acute physical conditions is seen only infrequently.

The clinic is often asked to examine children thought to be retarded but who grade up to border line or to normal intelligence. Those not definitely backward but slow academically through some disability, some personality difficulty, some complex in their personality and emotional reactions are unable to adapt themselves to conditions as they arise thus, and they become disturbers in the class room or on the playground. Of the 666 children examined—165 or 25% graded with an intelligence quotient of 80 or over, while several were of superior rating,—these pupils were not definitely retarded but presented problems of adjustment. There is in the clinic work a wide field for personality study and interpretations of personality responses. This group includes the neurotic and unstable child, those who are almost psychotic problems. It is with this group that the follow-up work is most effective. The lack of proper educational advantages tends to delinquency. Intelligent oversight with cooperation of parents or guardian is a vital need.

We are re-examining a few cases each year and now have records of a number of children who have been seen several years in succession, with the aim to make an analysis of these findings as a research problem—in most of these examinations the intelligence quotient has remained practically the same, the school work advancing with the mental gain. But as yet we have not a sufficiently large number from which to make definite conclusion nor do we have the necessary time for completing such a study.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE M. PATTERSON, M.D.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

To the Department of Mental Diseases:

I respectfully submit the following report of the finances of this institution for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1926.

CASH ACCOUNT

*Receipts**Income*

Board of Patients	\$6,487.58	
Personal Services:		
Board of Patients		\$6,487.58
Personal Services:		
Reimbursement from Board of Retirement		130.19
Sales:		
Travel, transportation and office expenses	73.82	
Food	1,466.67	
Clothing and materials	131.21	
Furnishings and household supplies	268.80	
Medical and general care	4.00	
Heat, light and power	4.75	
Farm:		
Cows and calves	\$131.90	
Hides	50.98	
Wood	879.00	
Grain	7.70	
	1,069.58	
Repairs, ordinary	83.32	
Total sales		\$3,102.15
Miscellaneous:		
Interest on bank balances	\$5.47	
Rent	560.77	
	566.24	
Total Income		\$10,286.16

MAINTENANCE

Balance from previous year, brought forward	\$2,309.43
Appropriations, current year:	464,160.00
Total	\$466,469.43
Expenses (as analyzed below)	446,067.50
Balance reverting to Treasury of Commonwealth	\$20,401.93

Analysis of Expenses

Personal Services	\$203,815.70
Religious Instruction	1,710.00
Travel, transportation and office expenses	6,421.86
Food	105,528.58
Clothing and materials	19,268.76
Furnishings and household supplies	25,279.22
Medical and general care	9,102.61
Heat, light and power	23,047.54
Farm	24,981.12
Garage, Stable and grounds	7,107.24
Repairs ordinary	12,976.16
Repairs and Renewals	6,828.61
Total expenses for Maintenance.	\$446,067.50

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS

Balance December 1, 1926	\$16,747.19
Appropriations for current year, Male Employees' Cottage 1926 Chap. 79.	30,000.00
Total	\$46,747.19
Expended during the year (see statement below)	\$16,072.17
Reverting to Treasury of Commonwealth	46.00*
	16,118.17
Balance November 30, 1926, carried to next year	\$30,629.02

OBJECT	Act or Resolve	Whole Amount	Expended during Fiscal Year	Total expended to Date	Balance at End of Year
Pur. Brightman property	1919, Chap. 242	\$8,000.00	—	\$1,395.26	\$6,604.74
	1922, Chap. 129	.86	—	—	—
Sewer Beds, Addition . . .	1923, Chap. 126	10,000.00	659.78	6,980.50	3,020.36
Employees' Cottage	1924, Chap. 126	30,000.00	3,472.87	29,995.16	4.84*
Athletic Field Equipment .	1924, Chap. 126	2,500.00	—	2,472.54	27.46*
Sprinklers	1924, Chap. 126	1,930.00	243.44	1,916.30	13.70*
Fire Protection, 1925	1925, Chap. 347	2,700.00	1,444.19	1,444.19	1,255.81
Male Employees' Cottage .	1926, Chap. 79	30,000.00	10,251.89	10,251.89	19,748.11
		\$85,130.86	\$16,072.17	\$54,455.84	\$30,675.02

Balance reverting to Treasury of the Commonwealth during the year (mark item with *)	46.00
Balance carried to next year	30,629.02
Total as above	\$30,675.02

PER CAPITA

During the year the average number of inmates has been 1,336.33

Total cost for maintenance, \$446,067.50

Equal to a weekly per capita cost of \$6.4192 (52 weeks to year)

Receipt from sales, \$3,102.15

Equal to a weekly per capita of \$.0446

All other institution receipts, \$7,323.03

Equal to a weekly per capita of \$.1053

Net weekly per capita \$6.2692

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH OLDHAM, *Treasurer.*

Total receipts and payments are in agreement with Comptroller's books of accounts.

JAMES C. McCORMICK.

VALUATION

NOVEMBER 30, 1926
REAL ESTATE

Land, 590 acres	\$19,283.50
Buildings	1,265,051.51
	\$1,284,335.01

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Travel, transportation and office expenses	\$225.00
Food	13,383.72
Clothing and materials	41,272.91
Furnishings and household supplies	156,082.99
Medical and general care	9,364.41
Heat, light and power	3,568.08
Farm	33,843.49
Garage, stable and grounds	4,120.15
Repairs	9,726.90
	\$271,587.65

SUMMARY

Real estate	\$1,284,335.01
Personal property	271,587.65
	\$1,555,922.66

